



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
Support Materials
2008**

**Grade 7
Reading**

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 7 READING

6.3.2 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings and relationships by selecting appropriate words or explaining the use of words in context, including content specific vocabulary, words with multiple meanings, or precise vocabulary

The small boat pitched back and forth over the rough waves.

- 1 Which sentence uses the word pitched as it is used in the box?
- A. We pitched our tent near the river.
 - B. Jane pitched her voice low as she told the secret.
 - C. The tree's branches pitched in the wind.
 - D. Simon pitched the ball directly to the batter.

6.2.1 Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes and base words; or context clues; or other resources, such as dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses; or prior knowledge)

Katherine had not planned to go to the beach that day—it had just been a whim.

- 2 What does the word whim mean as it is used in the box?
- A. a weak reason
 - B. a sudden idea
 - C. a scheduled event
 - D. a regretted decision

Using a Berlese Funnel Informational Text

6.7.1 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by obtaining information from text features (e.g., table of contents, glossary, index, transition words/phrases, bold or italicized text, headings, subheadings, graphic organizers, charts, graphs, or illustrations)

- 3 Which material is **not** necessary to have when making a Berlese funnel?
- A. a glass vial
 - B. wire screen
 - C. leaf litter
 - D. a jar lid

6.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to main/central ideas or key details

- 4 The purpose of the three-legged stand is to
- A. increase the surface area.
 - B. retain the leaf litter.
 - C. keep the funnel in place.
 - D. eliminate unnecessary litter.

Using a Berlese Funnel Informational Text

6.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to main/central ideas or key details

- 5 In step 5, what advice is provided?
- A. Be sure to use fresh litter when lining the funnel.
 - B. Do not place the bulb too close to the litter.
 - C. Check the jar or vial often for animals.
 - D. Return the animals to the soil when finished.

6.8.3 Analyze and interpret informational text, citing evidence as appropriate by drawing inferences about text, including author's purpose (e.g. to inform, explain, entertain, persuade) or message; or forming and supporting opinions/judgments and assertions about central ideas that are relevant

- 6 The reason for including step 6 is to
- A. explain bulb use to the reader.
 - B. entertain the reader with good advice.
 - C. inform the reader about the funnel's function.
 - D. explain to the reader how to see the animals.

Using a Berlese Funnel Informational Text

6.8.2 Analyze and interpret informational text, citing evidence as appropriate by synthesizing information within or across text(s) (e.g., constructing appropriate titles; or formulating assertions or controlling ideas)

7 In your own words, describe the design and purpose of the Berlese funnel.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough description, in student's own words, of the design and purpose of the Berlese funnel. Response includes relevant information from the article.
3	Response provides a description, in student's own words, of the design and purpose of the Berlese funnel. Response includes some relevant information from the article.
2	Response provides a partial description, in student's own words, of the design or the purpose of the Berlese funnel. Response includes limited information from the article.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

- The design of the funnel is round and is set on a three-legged stand. It is filled with fresh leaf litter and has a light placed above it.
- The purpose of the funnel is to catch very small animals that live in leaf litter and soil so that people can study them. This helps to collect animals that might otherwise go unnoticed.

SCORE POINT 4

- 7 The Berlese funnel is a funnel with wire mesh at the bottom. It has leaf litter inside of it. At the bottom of the funnel there is a test tube sticking out. It stands on a tripod. It has a reading lamp hanging over it. The lamp heats up the litter which drives the animals out of the funnel and into the test tube where it gets trapped. The purposes of the funnel are to find out what animals are hanging out in the litter. It's also a good way to find out what animals can survive in dirt. You can also use a mothball to drive the bugs out. Just tape the mothball to a piece of wood and put the wood on the funnel, mothball inside. Careful mothball fumes are harmful!

Response provides a thorough description, in student's own words, of the design and purpose of the Berlese funnel. Response includes relevant information from the article.

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SCORE POINT 3

- 7 The Berlese Funnel is a tool used to flesh bugs and other small things out of hiding. It does this by fleshing them out with light and warmth. The Funnel is a large funnel on a three legged stand with a small vial on the end. It would have a light above it or maybe a cardboard peice with a mothball to flesh out the insects.

Response provides a description, in student's own words, of the design and purpose of the Berlese funnel. Response lacks some relevant information from the article or is not fully developed.

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SCORE POINT 2

7 I think that the Berlese funnel is a very good idea because you get to see animals or insects that you have never seen before with your own eye because they are so small that your eye can't see little things like that. Like the pseudoscorpion I wouldn't have been able to see that with my own eye.

Response provides a partial description, in student's own words, of the design or the purpose of the Berlese funnel. Response includes limited information from the article.

SCORE POINT 1

7 It's a thing that you use to look at little animals in leaf litter.

Response is vague or minimal.

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SCORE POINT 0

7 It's a scorpion but in
a different way as the regular
scorpion this is a pseudoscorpion
among the animals.

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

Using a Berlese Funnel Informational Text

6.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to main/central ideas or key details

- 8 According to step 7, the light may be kept on
- A. only for short periods of time.
 - B. for a half an hour.
 - C. until the leaf litter is dry.
 - D. as long as it is supervised.

6.7.1 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by obtaining information from text features (e.g., table of contents, glossary, index, transition words/phrases, bold or italicized text, headings, subheadings, graphic organizers, charts, graphs, or illustrations)

- 9 According to the article, another way to drive animals out of litter is with a
- A. loud noise.
 - B. glass vial.
 - C. mothball.
 - D. microscope.

Using a Berlese Funnel Informational Text

6.7.1 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by obtaining information from text features (e.g., table of contents, glossary, index, transition words/phrases, bold or italicized text, headings, subheadings, graphic organizers, charts, graphs, or illustrations)

- 10 What is the purpose of the section “Real Pseudo”?
- A. to give the reader a lesson about animals
 - B. to help the reader understand how the funnel is built
 - C. to let the reader know there are many uses for the funnel
 - D. to give an example of an animal that might be found in the funnel

6.3.2 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings and relationships by selecting appropriate words or explaining the use of words in context, including content specific vocabulary, words with multiple meanings, or precise vocabulary

- 11 The word inhale means
- A. ignite.
 - B. breathe.
 - C. capture.
 - D. destroy.

Using a Berlese Funnel Informational Text

6.7.3 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by organizing information to show understanding (e.g., representing main/central ideas or details within text through charting, mapping, paraphrasing, summarizing, or comparing/contrasting)

- 12 Which steps in the directions are important to guarantee that the Berlese funnel works correctly? Explain your answer by using information from the article.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of which steps in the directions are important to ensure that the Berlese funnel works correctly. Response includes relevant information from the article.
3	Response provides an explanation of which steps in the directions are important to ensure that the Berlese funnel works correctly. Response includes some relevant information from the article.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of which steps in the directions are important to ensure that the Berlese funnel works correctly. Response includes limited information from the article.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

- It is important that the funnel be filled to the proper depth with fresh litter. This is very important because this is the environment that will attract and maintain the animals for observation.
- Because the animals are small, it is very important to have the light set at the proper distance in order to conduct the observation. If the light is placed too far away, it will not be able to heat properly. If the light is placed too closely, it may burn the litter.

Student responses may vary. Any explanation that is logical and supported by information from the article is acceptable.

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SCORE POINT 4

12

Step three, placing the wire screen in the funnel, in my opinion is critical because if you don't place the screen or mesh wire into the funnel, all the leaf litter will go through the funnel with the insects. Since all the leaf litter will go through the insects won't be separated for you to observe. Also I think steps 6 and 7 turning on the lamp, positioning it so it won't melt the funnel, and to not leave it unattended for long periods of time are critical. I think they are critical because without them you could catch the leaves on fire, melt the funnel or by not positioning the lamp close enough you might not drive the bugs out of the leaf litter.

Response provides a thorough explanation of which steps in the directions are important to ensure that the Berlese funnel works correctly. Response includes relevant information from the article.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
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SCORE POINT 3

12

Step 1 to make sure you cut out a wire screen and then step three to attach the screen to the funnel. Step 4 to set the funnel on a 3 legged stand to make sure it stays upright. Steps 5, and 6 fill the funnel several inches deep with litter fresh from that day! and then put a lamp on it to draw it out which will bring the animals out. Step 7 after a while check in on the funnel if no animals put back under the light, and as a reminder to stay near the funnel as some supervision.

Response provides an explanation of which steps in the directions are important to ensure that the Berlese funnel works correctly. Response lacks some relevant information from the article or is not fully developed.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
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SCORE POINT 2

12

When you put the Funnel on a three-legged stand you have to make sure it fits. When you cut a circular piece from the wire you have to make sure it's not too big or small because you have to fill the funnel with the leaf litter.

Response provides a partial explanation of which steps in the directions are important to ensure that the Berlese funnel works correctly. Response includes limited information from the article.

SCORE POINT 1

12

6, because if the light isn't on, then the animals won't go into the wire.

Response is vague or minimal.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
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SCORE POINT 0

12

all of them

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.